Honda CHECKERED FLAG EVENT

A deal this good deserves a victory lap.

Birchwood HONDA WEST

FIND SPECIAL LEASE OFFERS ON PAGE 7!

Winnipeg metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

High 8°C/Low 1°C Scattered Showers

RICH AND POOR

Sharing economy turning us into mini capitalists, says author

metroLIFE

Growth fees on the table

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Bowman says infrastructure needs funding

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's mayor believes growth is not paying for growth, and says the introduction of new fees may alleviate that.

Brian Bowman told reporters Wednesday he is considering implementing what could be citywide regulatory growth charges for the 2017 budget.

"Given the financial position of the city, we're either looking at higher property taxes for everyone, or higher property values for some that choose to build and grow," he said.

"The numbers that I've seen don't support the proposition that growth is paying for growth. You look at our infrastructure, you look at the structural operating deficit, the numbers don't add up."

Growth fees are a way cities can pay for infrastructure costs in areas of new development, such servicing transit, police, fire and other community amenities.

Bowman said growth fees could be levied to property owners in any area experiencing growth — which means expansion or renewal — regardless of location.

He says this makes his efforts different than former mayor Sam Katz, who floated the idea of ushering in what Bowman called development charges, which would be doled out to developers proposing to build new subdivisions.

"We're not, certainly, contemplating development charges, this is a discussion on regulatory growth fees," Bowman clarified.

"This is talking about citywide growth that occurs in new subdivisions and existing subdivisions."

Bowman emphasized the city is still studying the policy.

How it affects you, metroNEWS

BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

BRIGHT FUTURES

Students inspire safe driving campaign

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BUG REPORT

City set to battle creepy-crawlies

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Mosquitoes and caterpillars and beetles. Oh my!

Late spring weather brings early summer bugs, so the city's insect control branch is rolling out a number of control programs.

Tree spraying begins Sunday to head off tent caterpillars starting in Kildonan Park, weather permitting.

Winnipeg's bug boss Ken Nawolsky said this season's forest tent caterpillar control program will focus on cemeteries and parks, "where (they) are starting to cause significant levels of defoliation."

"Current surveillance information indicates that the ... larvae are feeding on the leaves causing many small holes, known as 'shot hole' damage," he said.

The city uses a biological spray, which first kills the caterpillars' appetite and then the bugs themselves. Homeowners are responsible for spraying their own trees with the substance, known as BTK. It's available at most home and garden centres.

> **Adult nuisance mosquitoes have emerged in very small numbers.**
> Bug boss Ken Nawolsky

Another control program is expected to kick off Monday, when the city plans to start treatment against elm bark beetles in Glenwood, Norwood, Alpine Place, Elm Park, St. George, Varennes and Worthington.

MANITOBA UPDATE

Rain still needed as forest fires grow

Although weather conditions have improved, the province's wildfire fighters say there has been little rain where they needed it most.

Wednesday's daily fire bulletin said the past 24 hours haven't provided much precipitation to the eastern region — where crews battle two growing forest fires near Caddy Lake and Beresford Lake.

The latter fire has increased to about 73,000 hectares while winds from the south continue to feed the flames.

Evacuation orders are in effect for the Beresford cottage subdivision, the east side of Caddy Lake, and Wallace Lake.

Roughly 100 firefighters are working to protect cabins and property from the two growing fires.

In addition to fire-fighting aircraft from Manitoba and Ontario, the Northwest Territories has contributed a water bomber group, and Minnesota provided air support to protect hydro lines near Kenora. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Participants at last year's Spur Festival, designed to engage Canadians in conversations about important topics. METRO/CONTRIBUTED

Time for deep ideas

SPUR FESTIVAL

Opportunity for us to talk about 'issues that matter'

Meg Crane
For Metro | Winnipeg

Spur Festival wants you to make Canada a better place.

The annual national festival brings people in cities across the country together to talk about current issues that impact them.

"We launched the festival back in 2013 and it's really meant to engage Canadians in issues that matter," said Spur Festival director Helen Walsh.

Winnipeg's Spur Festival takes place May 12 to 15.

There will be panel discussions, a keynote speaker, two walking tours, a bike jam and late night DJ parties, all centering around the theme Our New Tribalism.

Under the theme, Spur Festival will get Winnipeggers talking about topics such as feminism, race, gender-fluidity and landscape architecture.

Walsh said for the first time, they will also be exploring the topic of Métis heritage.

Also new is a wrap-up event at Fools & Horses starting at 9 p.m. every night of the festival, where people can continue discussions started that day.

"We live so much of our lives in a sort of mediated way," said Walsh. "We don't necessarily engage in the deep conversations that matter."

By partnering with a variety of organizations, Walsh said they've been able to create events that will draw out different types of people to have these discussions with one another.

She sees the May 13 book launch, Books That Spur: Canadian Pacific and the Golden Age of Travel, as drawing in people who are interested in history, travel and trains.

Bringing together different people to discuss wide-ranging issues helps them gain empathy and understanding towards others, said Walsh.

A festival pass costs $75; individual event tickets range from $10 to $17, available at spurfestival.ca.

Spur Festival will record the audio of all events and will publish them later as podcasts.

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PORTAGE PLACE

Industry speaks out on growth-related charges

CONSTRUCTION

Home Builders' Association official says fees unfair

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

The Manitoba Home Builders' Association says builders and buyers will bear an undue share of costs under a levy plan. THINKSTOCK

An industry spokesman says homeowners and developers would pay more than their fair share of costs for new builds, if any type of new growth-related charge is levied.

Mike Moore of the Manitoba Home Builders' Association says he is firm in his organization's position to oppose the possible fee — which he called a tax — saying new developments already cover the cost of growth in the city.

"It is true that we don't have a specific development cost charge. However, if you're charged with a 100 per cent of the cost of the development, is that not a development cost charge?" he said on Wednesday.

"Right now everything in a new subdivision is being paid for by the developer, which, of course, is ultimately the consumer."

Mayor Brian Bowman told reporters Wednesday he is considering implementing what he calls regulatory growth fees on areas of the city experiencing development or expansion.

Bowman initially floated the idea of introducing growth fees during his annual state of the city address back in February, while the 2016 budget earmarked $250,000 to hire a consultant to further study the matter.

Moore criticized the plan, saying new homeowners already pay some of the highest property taxes in the city, calling into question the fairness of asking these residents for additional money to cover the servicing of standard municipal infrastructure, already covered in their yearly tax bill.

There is currently an ongoing review of the city's development agreements, he says, explaining it could present opportunities for builders to cover more costs when it comes to transit stops, parks and roads.

"I trust that the industry will be a major player and involved in the (consultant) study and will be consulted for our input," he said of the city's upcoming plan.

This week, the city issued a request for proposals to hire a consultant to conduct a first-of-its-kind growth study of Winnipeg, analyzing the relationship between its revenues and growth-related costs.

Findings from that study are due back to city staff in a report Aug. 31.

> **Everything in a new subdivision is being paid for by the developer.**
> Mike Moore, Manitoba Home Builders' Association

IS MANITOBA'S APPROVAL NEEDED?

When Mayor Brian Bowman was asked about the legislated authority of the city to introduce such fees, and whether provincial approval would be required, he expressed doubt he would need an OK from Brian Pallister's new Conservative government.

However, the former New Democrat government gave a resounding "no" to a planned land development fee pitched by the city three years ago, which would have required approval from the province to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter.

Information posted to the city's website also indicates that, unlike surrounding rural communities that have authority under The Planning Act to introduce fees to cover the cost of growth-related infrastructure, Winnipeg lacks that power under the charter without provincial approval.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

A police cruiser sits outside the school Wednesday.
BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

STURGEON HEIGHTS

Graffiti threat at school

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

Many parents opted to keep their teens at home Monday after a threatening message was scrawled on a bathroom wall at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate.

In an email obtained by Metro and sent to parents Tuesday night, the school says one washroom was vandalized with graffiti and a "message (that) could be interpreted as a potential threat to the safety of our school on May 11, 2016."

The letter did not state what the message said but one parent, who asked not to be named, said it alluded to the 1999 Columbine school massacre in Littleton, Colo.

"I was told the message said 'Columbine, V2, May 11, 2016," said the parent.

The parent's son attended school Wednesday, but many other students stayed home.

"My son said there were seven kids in his first class," said the parent.

The letter to parents states the school and police were trying to identify the writer of the message. Police were at school Wednesday and all backpacks were being checked. The school said jackets were not allowed in classrooms and were kept in lockers.

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Rhianna Saj, left, and Shannay Smith, second-year advertising students at Red River, help unveil MPI's newest awareness campaign, which they had a hand in creating. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

'Bright' idea takes on impaired driving

SAFETY

MPI launches campaign based on college students' pitch

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) is juxtaposing bright futures with bright lights with a new anti-impaired driving campaign launched this week.

Ward Keith, an MPI vice-president, said the new campaign is meant to make youth think twice about driving while impaired, and he trusts it can do so, since the concept came from the minds of two young people.

"It's really important that this is not our messaging, this is messaging that is created for young people from young people," Keith said.

The commercials for the campaign tell the story of a promising young hockey player being jailed for impaired driving — depicting his own bright future being replaced by the bright lights of a police cruiser, the flash of a mug shot photo, and the light of a jail cell.

> **This is messaging that is created for young people from young people.**
> Ward Keith

Keith said while there has been a decline in impaired collisions, there's still a "long way to go," especially with the new campaign's target audience.

"The young age group aged 16 to 24 is the most over-represented in impaired driving," he said. "Every year on average 25 Manitobans are killed at the hands of an impaired driver, and more than 160 Manitobans are seriously injured."

Shannay Smith and Rhianna Saj — the two Red River students who pitched the idea to MPI — hope their campaign concept helps get those numbers down.

"We wanted to kind of have that impact on young men specifically," Smith said.

Saj said showing how a person's bright future can quickly turn dark because of a decision to drive drunk or after consuming drugs was something she felt would "strike people at the heart," and "show the actual consequences of drinking and driving."

Saj and Smith came up with the "bright future" concept as part of their course work in the Red River College creative communications program.

IN BRIEF

Man arrested after senior beaten with skateboard

Winnipeg police said they have made an arrest after a senior was beaten with a skateboard at a bus shack.

Police said the man, 63, was waiting for the bus at a stop in the 1400 block of Portage Avenue May 4 when he asked a young man to stop smoking. The young man knocked the victim to the ground and hit him with a skateboard several times.

Justin James Crowe, 24, faces charges including aggravated assault and possession of a weapon.

METRO

Third person charged in death of teenager

A third person has been arrested and charged in the death of a young man in northern Manitoba.

The body of Nicholas Brophy, a 19-year-old Thompson resident, was found just outside the city on April 26, after he was last seen leaving a friend's house on Sept. 8, 2015.

Police say Mark Bradley Thomas, a 20-year-old resident of South Indian Lake, Man., has been arrested on a charge of first-degree murder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mental health check for accused in stabbing

A psychiatric assessment has been ordered for a Saskatoon man accused of fatally stabbing a Winnipeg teenager who was said to be his good friend.

Walid Adam Mohamed, 29, appeared in court Tuesday via video link and was ordered to undergo a 30-day assessment at the Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford to determine if he's fit to stand trial.

He is charged with first-degree murder in the April death of Mohammed Omar.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The man who faced the fire

FORT MCMURRAY

As tens of thousands fled city, some chose to stay

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Hartley Bushell wasn't going to let flaming embers destroy his beautiful backyard.

As wildfires encroached on Fort McMurray last week, causing officials to command a mandatory evacuation order, Bushell stayed back with hoses at the helm.

Bushell didn't do it alone, either. He said he had his wife, Chalinee, at his side.

"My wife was in tears and wanted to leave, but I wouldn't do anything that would endanger her, ever, so I assured her we were going to be OK.

"I didn't want to see it go up in smoke because it would be a year later that I'd move into a plastic house — somewhere I don't want to be — and it certainly wouldn't have an outdoor kitchen and a water feature."

Sgt. John Spaans, with the Alberta RCMP, said there have been others who stayed put, though he wouldn't say how many, as officers don't want to discourage residents who fled.

He said RCMP can't force people to leave via arrest, unless they pose a danger to themselves and the public.

Bushell was told to leave numerous times, but said he knew he was in the clear.

"I'm not a daredevil," he said. "We maintained a vigilant, diligent spark watch. We had an easy escape route."

He said he used his neighbours' hoses to create a "wall of water" until about 1 a.m. Wednesday, as flaming debris blew in from the highway.

"We stayed the course and kept everything from igniting until the fire was no longer an immediate threat," he said.

Hartley Bushell and P.J. the pug. CONTRIBUTED

The next morning, he ventured to his friend's homestead, where he found a whimpering P.J. the pug among the rubble.

"I scooped him up and took him back to my place," he said. "I phoned the owner right away and the little girl was very happy."

"The firefighters have done a gargantuan, heroic job to keep this fire from destroying this city. They deserve every accolade," he said.

A home near Hartley Bushell's was destroyed after it caught fire last week. COURTESY HARTLEY BUSHELL

PREDICTIONS

Suncor hired own analysts

Suncor Energy has confirmed it used its own analysts to predict the path of wildfires near its facilities in Fort McMurray, and one source told Metro on background that it did so because it thought the government's fire modelling and predictions were potentially flawed.

Both the government and Suncor had fire prediction specialists that traced the path of the quickly spreading inferno.

Sneh Seetal, spokeswoman for Suncor Energy, couldn't say Suncor trusted the judgment of government analysts.

"It's not really a yes or no type answer — I think it's too simplistic and doesn't look at the complexity of the unprecedented situation," Seetal said.

Mike Long, spokesman for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, said fire crews with oil and gas companies and the rural municipality focused on saving the city and its infrastructure, while government crews targeted the forest. He said the government and Suncor's analysts shared intel, but didn't provide specifics. JEREMY SIMES/METRO

RESIDENTS

Evacuees line up for debit cards

Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Patrick Bailey and Korey Sweeney were in line in Edmonton by about 11 a.m. Wednesday, an estimated 100 people already ahead of them.

At the front of the line was what many of them desperately need: Money.

Last week, as a wildfire bore down on Fort McMurray, Bailey and Sweeney only had time to pack enough clothes to fill a duffle bag between them before fleeing. But on Wednesday, they went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton as evacuees, and said the prize at the end of the long queue — debit cards with government money — would be going toward basic necessities.

"It'll help us get food, rent, just help us get back on our feet basically," Sweeney said.

Premier Rachel Notley announced Wednesday that Alberta will supply Fort McMurray evacuees with debit cards with $1,250 on them, and also add $500 for each dependent child under the age of 18.

In response, evacuees from Fort McMurray queued in massive lines in Edmonton Wednesday for the money.

An hour before the government was to start distributing the cards, at 2 p.m., the line already wound through the Butterdome arena at the University of Alberta campus, out the door, down a ramp and around the block.

The debit cards will be available to anyone who had to leave Fort McMurray, regardless of their economic circumstances.

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Trump aiming for party unity

U.S. ELECTION

Front-runner has 92% of the delegates needed

Donald Trump is taking a run at party peacemaking now that voters have put him on a glide path to the Republican nomination. If he can't get restive Republicans like House Speaker Paul Ryan on side, he says he'll keep on winning anyway.

Trump now has 92 per cent of the delegates he needs to clinch the nomination, according to AP's count, after he earned a hefty haul Tuesday night in West Virginia and Nebraska primaries. He has the field to himself, but after having nearly closed the deal with primary voters, he's facing a Republican establishment that is deeply wary of his candidacy but has nowhere else to go.

Trump and Ryan are to meet Thursday, days after the speaker — the nation's top elected Republican — withheld his endorsement. Asked on Fox News what will happen if the meeting does not go well, Trump said: "We'll trudge forward and do like I've been doing, and win all the time."

Despite his unconcerned tone, much rides on the relationship he forges with party leaders. Trump's bare-bones campaign has glaring deficiencies the party apparatus is uniquely positioned to address. The New York businessman has largely ignored collecting information on voters he needs to turn out in November, sent few staff to battleground states and taken no steps to build a fundraising network.

"As we turn our focus toward the general election, we want to make sure there's the strongest partnership," Sean Spicer, the Republican National Committee's chief strategist, said of Trump.

Trump said he would not rely on public financing, a decision that forces him to quickly assemble a donor network capable of raising the estimated $1 billion needed to run a modern presidential campaign. For that, he is likely to have to rely on help from the party's extensive donor network.

Republican leaders in the Senate and at the RNC are urging members to get behind the billionaire and turn their energy toward battling Democrat Hillary Clinton. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **We have a nominee, it looks like he may well be very competitive, and we want to win the White House.**
> Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader

In India, right-wing activists make offerings to the fire god while conducting Hindu rituals to ensure a win for U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump. Trump's calls to temporarily ban muslims from America and crack down on terrorist groups have earned him some fans in India. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONARCHY

Chinese officials 'rude,' says the Queen

The 90-year-old Queen has made a rare foray into political affairs, being caught on film characterizing Chinese officials as "very rude" in their dealings with British counterparts during a state visit last year.

Queen Elizabeth II. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Queen Elizabeth II made the unguarded comments Tuesday while talking to a senior police officer at a rain-soaked garden party on the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

With uncharacteristic bluntness the queen said the Chinese had not dealt properly with Barbara Woodward, the British envoy to China.

"They were very rude to the ambassador," Elizabeth said.

The comments were recorded by a palace-authorized cameraman working for three British networks and distributed to broadcasters. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mount Everest
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EVEREST

Don't spray it on the mountain

Next time you leave silly messages on the world's highest mountain, beware: China is watching you.

Officials have scrubbed graffiti from two granite tablets on the Chinese side of Mount Everest's northern base camp and plan to name and shame future defilers.

Chinese state news reported Wednesday that workers removed signatures, dates, doodles and messages left by scores of visitors. They include "let's wander together," "farewell to the mountain" and "here I come."

The graffiti grew so thick it covered the information about the mountain carved into the tablets in Chinese, Tibetan and English.

The base camp at roughly 5,200 metres is a popular tourist site and has fallen prey to behaviour the Chinese government says is uncivilized and vows to punish. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Allegation by Philippine VP candidate rebuffed

Philippine election officials challenged Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Wednesday to prove his allegation of irregularities in the counting of votes for vice-president, where he has been overtaken by his closest rival.

They also rejected Marcos' request for a stop to the unofficial tally by an accredited citizens' watchdog, which uses the same election returns that are transmitted to the Commission on Elections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Students in Thailand are using their smartwatches and glasses embedded with cameras as high-tech tools to help them cheat on exams. ISTOCK

THAILAND

Students use technology to cheat

Glasses with embedded cameras and smartwatches with stored information seem like regular spy equipment for the likes of James Bond, but for some students in Thailand, they are high-technology cheating devices.

Bangkok's Rangsit University cancelled its examinations on Saturday and Sunday for admission to its medical and dental faculties following the discovery of the unusual modus operandi by three female students.

While cheating has long been a problem in Thai schools and colleges, the use of high-tech gear — the cameras were used to take pictures of the test sheet and the smartwatches to receive answers from someone outside — has taken the practice to a whole new plane.

"We've never found cheating of this level — involving high-technology," university official Kittisak Tripipatpornchai said.

Cheating is a marked aberration in the list of good behaviour expected of Thais. From a young age, Thais are taught to be polite, tolerant, and respectful. But educators say cheating has flourished because of an education system that makes exam scores the only criterion for assessing a student's ability and granting admission into places of higher learning. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google bans ads for payday loans

FINANCE

These types of lenders have been target of criticism

Internet giant Google said Wednesday it will ban all ads from payday lenders, calling the industry "deceptive" and "harmful."

Google's decision could have as much or even more impact on curtailing the industry than any move by politicians, as many payday loans start with a desperate person searching online for ways to make ends meet or cover an emergency.

Effective July 13, Google will no longer allow ads for loans due within 60 days and will also ban ads for loans where the interest rate is 36 per cent or higher. The industry will join Google's other banned categories of ads, such as counterfeit goods, weapons, explosives, tobacco products and hate speech.

"Our hope is that fewer people will be exposed to misleading or harmful products," said David Graff, Google's director of global product policy, in a blog post that announced the policy change.

Payday lenders have long been a target of criticism by politicians and consumer advocates, who argue the industry charges extremely high interest rates to customers, who are often the poor. Payday loans are often used to cover an unexpected expense or to make ends meet before the next paycheque. But for many borrowers, short-term loans wind up being difficult to pay off, leading to a cycle of debt that can drag on for months.

> **Our hope is that fewer people will be exposed to misleading or harmful products.** David Graff

A 2012 study by Pew showed the average payday borrower is in debt for five months, spending $520 in fees and interest to repeatedly borrow $375. The annual per cent rate on a payday loan is 391 per cent, according to Pew.

"There is nothing fair about triple-digit interest rates being charged on loans to working families," said Keith Corbett, executive vice-president with the Center for Responsible Lending, in a statement. "Google is to be praised for doing its part to limit use of these abusive loans."

In response to critics, the payday lending industry has long argued it provides a necessary financial service to people in need of emergency funds.

"These policies are discriminatory and a form of censorship," said Amy Cantu, a spokeswoman with the Community Financial Centers Association of America, the trade group representing payday lenders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, May 12, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON VOTING REFORM

Surely on a matter that affects the way Canada's electoral life is governed, voters should be able to expect that MPs be allowed to weigh in on an equal basis, regardless of partisan affiliation.

Among Justin Trudeau's commitments, few are as time-sensitive as his promise to have a new voting system in place for the 2019 federal election.

And so, as the weeks turned into months and eventually into more than half a year without any action from the incoming government, questions arose as to how committed the Liberals were to a promise they had made when they were twice removed from power.

Elections Canada needs about two years to have a new voting system up and running for the 2019 campaign. Presuming that the Liberals' promised electoral reform in good faith, only the search for a way to invest as much legitimacy as possible in the process could justify the delay.

Instead, on Thursday, the mountain gave birth to a mouse in the shape of a parliamentary committee that is special only in name. Its makeup replicates the very distortions that the Liberals claim to want to redress through electoral reform.

Like every other committee on Parliament Hill, it will feature a Liberal majority made up, in this case, of six government MPs with three Conservatives and one New Democrat rounding up the lot. The Bloc Québécois and the Green Party have been each assigned a seat, albeit at the equivalent of the children's table. Their respective representative will have no voting rights.

It is an open secret that more than a few Liberals would not be unhappy to see the entire electoral plan founder.

The latter is generous only by the standard of the parliamentary rule that denies official status and de facto committee spots to parties that fail to elect at least 12 MPs. But in the larger picture, the condescending Liberal approach to the place of the smaller parties in the electoral reform debate amounts to treating the 1.5 million Canadians who supported the Bloc and the Green Party last fall as second-tier voters.

Surely on a matter that affects the way Canada's electoral life is governed, voters should be able to expect that MPs be allowed to weigh in on an equal basis, regardless of partisan affiliation.

As if Liberal control of the committee was not enough, there is no commitment on the part of the government that it would use its majority to introduce a new voting system unilaterally and no pledge to submit the result to a plebiscite before implementing it.

Maryam Monsef, Minister of Democratic Institutions, and Dominic LeBlanc, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, announced Wednesday a House committee will study alternative voting systems. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

If only based on the calendar, there is no time to both bring a new voting system to a referendum and put it in place for the next federal election. A committee set up on the eve of the dead political season that is the Canadian summer will already have to take more than a few shortcuts if it is going to a) consult widely and b) come up with a recommendation in time for a Dec. 1 deadline.

Mind you, based on the recent experience of the MPs and senators who toiled diligently on the medically assisted death file only to see the thrust of their report ignored by the government, this committee could amount to little more than a make-work project designed to allow the Liberals to check an item off their bucket list.

There has for a long time been an implicit convention that in matters that pertain to the elections law, governments should strive to secure a consensus that extends beyond their own ranks.

Yes, the Conservatives broke that convention when they last overhauled the election law. But the Liberals promised to do better. Their actions on the electoral reform front so far fall short of that commitment.

Where legitimacy should have been striven for, opposition suspicions that the Liberals want to use this process to either give their party a permanent electoral edge or more simply to sabotage it have instead been reinforced.

It is an open secret that more than a few Liberals would not be unhappy to see the entire electoral plan founder — as long as they could blame someone else for it.

Looking at how Trudeau has stacked the electoral reform deck, a cynic could conclude that his bid to move to a different voting system is programmed to fail if not in the Liberal-controlled House of Commons, then in a Senate conveniently once-removed from the government.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Finally, we hear that famous Ghomeshi voice again

Finally, he spoke.

After 18 months of near-perfect silence, we heard that voice. Still full-bodied and low-toned. Still strong — projecting to the judge and behind him to the benches of reporters and his ever-present mother and sister.

It was Jian Ghomeshi, yes. But that voice, once his golden ticket, was used in a way we haven't heard before: In an apology.

At 10:09 a.m. on Wednesday morning, Ghomeshi stood in a half-filled courtroom at Toronto's Old City Hall to comply with the key component of the peace bond that cut short a second trial for a single charge of sexual assault and provided this swift, preemptive end to his legal woes. He said sorry to Kathryn Borel, once a producer on Q, his CBC radio show.

"I want to apologize to Ms. Borel for my behaviour towards her in the workplace," he began, his voice unmistakable.

Except now, in place of the come-hither croon, Ghomeshi gave carefully constructed distance. He used the impersonal diction of a disgraced politician ("I did not recognize that I crossed boundaries inappropriately"). He read the words, but without feeling.

And he spoke swiftly, like a man on a mission. Which he was. The statement led to the withdrawal of the final criminal charges against him and an end to the headlines and the kind of life where one of your closest confidantes is your lawyer.

There was only a vague reference to the specific incident — that he came up behind Borel at work and "held her waist and pressed his pelvis back and forth, repeatedly into her buttocks," to quote the Crown.

"This incident was thoughtless and I was insensitive," Ghomeshi said.

A letter submitted to court from Ghomeshi's therapist commended his "great commitment and focus" to understanding his behaviour. It was intended to underline his sincerity, but that's a hard thing to prove when Ghomeshi gets so much for seemingly so little: Legally, his apology holds no weight of guilt. Precise and clearly rehearsed, it also functions as a coming-out for the man who was once defined by his ubiquitous celebrity.

Still, for Borel, it offered the "clearest path to the truth."

And it was she who had the last word of the day.

"There are 20 other women who have come forward to the media and made serious allegations about his violent behaviour," she said outside the courthouse. "I think we all want this to be over. But it won't be until he admits to everything that he's done."

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HOT DOG TASTE TEST

Lisa Hanawalt's confessional comics a peek into her anxiety

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

When cartoonist Lisa Hanawalt was a kid, she took riding lessons, which turned her already fanatical love of horses into a lifelong obsession.

"It was something I glommed onto and couldn't shake it," she says. "I tried to."

Hanawalt's equine friends pop up throughout all her work, most famously in the characters she designed for Netflix's first animated series, the cult-favourite BoJack Horseman, starring Will Arnett as the voice of a boozy, has-been sitcom star. Her new comics collection, Hot Dog Taste Test, published by Drawn & Quarterly, gathers many of Hanawalt's favourite things — anthropomorphized creatures with often gross human foibles and desires, food diaries and lists, interspersed with just the right amount of scatological humour.

Many of the illustrated stories first appeared in David Chang's trendy food-culture magazine, Lucky Peach, including her first-hand account of shadowing chef Wylie Dufresne for a day (referring to the tasty stuffing inside his ravioli dish as "sex cheese"), for which the Los Angeles-based artist won a James Beard Award.

Unlike horses, food was not an obsession for young Hanawalt. A self-described finicky eater who preferred plain mashed potatoes, she is now a fearless connoisseur, willing to try anything from spicy pigeon to viscachas, a pickled rodent meat she purchased in jars while visiting Argentina. Food as a theme gives Hanawalt plenty of material, too.

"I can really explore the outer edges of what is even tangentially related to food because it's such an important aspect of life," she says.

Hanawalt, who is a special guest at this weekend's Toronto Comic Arts Festival, is one of those gifted creative types who can write and draw equally well, and has a seemingly endless fount of productive energy, although she says she often goes to bed feeling like she hasn't accomplished enough. (She also hosts a popular podcast, Baby Geniuses, with her friend, comedian Emily Heller.)

Her work often starts with ideas she's jotted down or with some absentminded doodles from her sketchbook. She claims she can take on an impulsive "manic persona" when she's drawing.

While there are no shortage of sly gags, Hot Dog Taste Test also features several sentimental stories, with Hanawalt confessing anxieties over family matters, travel fears, social relations — often times told through the voices of her wildlife characters. While Hanawalt enjoys reading confessional, diary comics, she's never been comfortable making them, and so it forces her to try to understand why she needs to share certain feelings with the world.

"Maybe it's that I just want to reach out to the reader and say, Hey, are you like a nervous weirdo, too? It's OK, we'll get through this. It's OK to have these thoughts and feel uncomfortable. And it's me telling myself that, too."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

Lisa Hanawalt's new book features several sentimental stories that reveal her anxieties.
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The trouble with capitalism

RICH AND POOR

New novel is a parable of corporate culture

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

"My spare room funds my expeditions," states an outdoor adventurer named Jeff in a new Airbnb billboard near the foot of Yonge Street in Toronto. It's part of the company's first major ad campaign in Canada as so-called disruptive American businesses gain a foothold here.

While the sharing economy is praised by self-described hustlers for allowing us all to become entrepreneurs, author Jacob Wren sees it as a troubling form of "turbo capitalism," forcing us to monetize all aspects of our lives — our homes, cars, and friendships.

"You used to just be able to live in your home but now you have to rent it out every time you leave in order to survive," says Wren, 44, who lives in Montreal.

Wren's new novel, Rich and Poor (Bookthug, $20), is more than a critique of capitalism and profit-obsessed society.

It's a parable examining corporate culture — the way it makes us calculating, unscrupulous and ultimately disposable. Even the billionaire executive realizes "no matter how talented, qualified or indispensable I think I might be, there's always someone else who can do the job."

Inspired by the discourse started by the Occupy movement, Wren says he's intrigued by the discussion caused by the popular protest, and more recently the Panama Papers.

"I remember before Occupy talking to some not particularly 'left' friends, and them all saying shut up about capitalism, no one talks about that anymore," says Wren.

"As Occupy was bringing questions of wealth and inequality into the public and creating new terms like The One Per Cent, suddenly the same people were willing to talk about capitalism and think about what it is and think about how much money is actually being hoarded in offshore accounts."

Wren says these are important issues for his generation, which is said to have less money and fewer opportunities than their parents.

The two main narrators are only known to the reader as No. 1 — the billionaire — and No. 2, a talented pianist who now washes dishes for a living.

No. 2 seeks revenge for the way life has betrayed him, and so he decides that "The poor must kill the rich, one at a time, at every opportunity." He wants to strangle No. 1 with piano wire, and set an example for others to imitate.

Wren read popular business books and CEO biographies to help develop character No. 1, a brilliant executive who memorizes all his employees names and is unusually candid about his company's misconduct.

He says it was a pleasure to write from this perspective, though he admits the mashup is not going to be recognizable as any single person, either living or in popular culture.

"I don't think any actual capitalist will think I've gotten them right," says Wren. "It's a very biased, playful mischievous take on that kind of character, and that kind of larger-than-life figure who rejoices in being a capitalist and also is willing to admit all the problems of it," he says.

In many ways, Rich and Poor is a parody of the typical capitalist villain, says Wren.

For instance, No. 1 considers finding another "trophy wife" but at his age decides it's in bad taste, instead opting for a prostitute because he sees a "pure economic transaction" as "the most clean, the most precise method of fulfilling desires and needs."

If there's commonality between the two narrators, it's in the way both seem unable to maintain relationships and their dysfunctional view on friendship.

No. 2 defines a friend as someone who can "betray you more savagely, more painfully, than anyone else in the world." For this reason, he seeks imitators, not friends.

Meanwhile, No. 1 stabs his best friend in the back to save himself.

"We could say this is kind of the ultimate capitalist manoeuver — to keep your wealth by betraying those closest to you," says Wren.

Jacob Wren, 44, author of Rich and Poor. CONTRIBUTED

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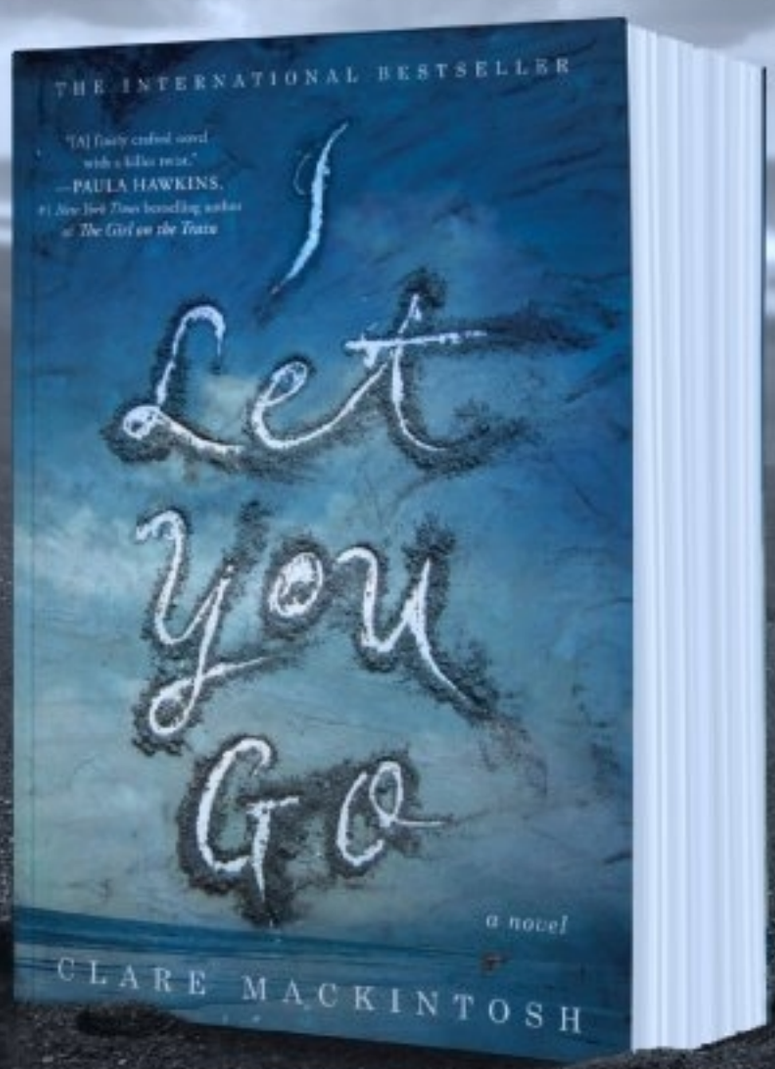
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PANAMA PAPERS

Emma Watson had offshore company

A representative for Harry Potter actress Emma Watson said she had an offshore company for privacy reasons only.

The company, Falling Leaves Ltd., was named in the so-called Panama Papers, a series of leaked documents that revealed how some politicians and celebrities hide money. More files were made available this week by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Watson created the company in the British Virgin Islands three years ago "for the sole purpose of protecting her anonymity and safety," the representative said.

"UK companies are required to publicly publish details of their shareholders and therefore do not give her the necessary anonymity required to protect her personal safety."

The spokesman said Watson received no monetary advantages from the offshore company.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Watson's company was used only for privacy reasons, a representative claims. CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Harsher comedy is on display

THE SHOW: Veep, S5, E4 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The dying mother

Veep remains one of the fleetest, funniest half-hours on TV, says Schneller. CONTRIBUTED

U.S. President Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and her staff crowd into a hospital room. Selina is about to switch off life support for her mother (whom we never see), and is also awaiting news from her election recount. It's chaos. The beeping of the medical equipment keeps everyone checking their phones. Selina's aide Gary (Tony Hale) collapses into a wheelchair.

"Ignore Steven Hawking over there," Selina says to a doctor.

Selina's mother dies just as the staff receives good news from the recount. Selina's daughter Catherine (Sarah Sutherland), who was getting coffee, enters to find everyone cheering.

"Is Grandma better?" Catherine asks.

"Catherine! I thought you were here," Selina says. "Grandma's dead. But we got great news about the election!"

Is it me, or is this show meaner now that its creator, Armando Iannucci, has departed, replaced by Seinfeld/Curb Your Enthusiasm vet David Mandel?

Iannucci is an unparalleled master of insults – if you haven't seen his film In the Loop or series The Thick of It, please do. But he's also British, which I posit gives him a refined sense of the workplace class system.

In earlier seasons, Selina's staff ragged on each other, but they also knew their place in the pecking order.

The insults had a subtle variety. Now they feel of the same voice and intensity. Selina's abject disdain for Catherine, especially, is much harsher. It used to be tempered with guilt, which was more nuanced.

This is a quibble. Veep remains one of the fleetest, funniest half-hours on TV. But we were lucky to have Iannucci as long as we did.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Oki Sato's design firm presented a movement-themed collection in New York

ON THE MARKET

Bungalow bliss in Amber Trails

CONTRIBUTED

Housing amenities

In a neighbourhood where finding a five-year-old home is beyond rare, this one certainly makes its mark. The open-concept design spares no expense on finishes including Caesarstone countertops, hand-scraped wood floors, birch interior doors plus a high-end stainless appliance package. Nine-foot ceilings add to the airy feel of this custom built beauty. Plenty of storage is discreetly tucked in to the minimalist design. A screened-in sunroom lets you make the most of Manitoba summers.

In the neighbourhood

There's something special about Wolseley and that's why young families and free spirits have been flocking to this central neighbourhood for decades. Portage Avenue is close by, offering all the amenities including DeLuca's grocery store at the top of the street. Stately elms built a canopy over every street, offering shade as you stroll to shops along Westminster Avenue. Green spaces dot the neighbourhood. The Vimy Ridge Park spray pad is the perfect place to cool off this summer.

Location and transit

Nestled in the heart of thriving Wolseley, this home is half a block from Portage Avenue, one of the city's main thoroughfares. That means it's a five-minute transit ride to downtown. A multitude of connections puts commuters anywhere they need to be. The central location means you're never too far away from any destination inside city limits. Plus, getting out of the city is easy thanks to Portage Avenue and its connections in all directions. SHEL ZOLKEWICH/FOR METRO

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A iving room designed by Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design shows a couple's contrasting tastes both represented: Sleek, modern furniture and lighting mix beautifully with soft floral drapes and colourful, patterned pillows. JOHN HUGSTAD/BURNHAM DESIGN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Learning to live in aesthetic harmony

DESIGN

When moving in together, couples learn to compromise

For couples setting up a new home together, it's a challenge: how to merge two sets of stuff and two decorating styles into one space they both can love.

"Emotions get really high when it comes to your belongings if the person you're choosing to spend the rest of your life with doesn't love what you love," says stylist Marianne Canada, host of the HGTV Crafternoon web series.

In our increasingly design-savvy world, many people come to coupledom with a clear idea of how their home should look. Even when couples try to accommodate conflicting tastes, they run into the space issue.

"Most of us just don't have room for two full households together," Canada says. "You have to make some choices."

Here, Canada and two other interior designers — California-based Betsy Burnham and Florida-based Laura Burleson — offer advice on mixing, matching and peacefully negotiating a merger of two homes.

Claim your favourites

Each person probably has a few treasured pieces of furniture or art that they can't imagine living without. Burnham suggests that partners agree to each keep perhaps three or four of these pieces in their shared home. If one partner truly dislikes one of the other's absolute favourites, consider changing the piece a little through painting or re-upholstering.

Burleson cites one couple who disagreed over a set of cane-backed dining chairs. The solution: lacquering the chairs in a dramatic shade of charcoal grey that matched a modern, concrete and brass dining table.

"It takes repurposing things like that for people to look at them in a new way," Burleson says. "It's such a great exercise as a first compromise. And we all know marriage is based on compromise."

Go with the contrast

Once those favourite pieces are chosen, Burnham suggests creating a clean slate by painting the walls a crisp white or a white shade with just a hint of colour. Then look at all the remaining furniture against this new backdrop as though you were shopping.

Rather than trying to group items that are similar, experiment with pairing those that contrast. All three designers say contrast can be the best part of decor. In fact, couples merging two households "have such a leg up, design-wise," says Burleson, because they can creatively mix and layer a wide range of decor into one stylish space.

"There are no two styles that can't be combined to some degree," says Canada. And doing so can result in decor "that feels more collected and intentional."

Try new locations

As you assess your remaining furniture and accessories, consider placing things in rooms where they've never been.

"You don't have to make that big leather recliner work in your traditional living room," Canada says, even if that's where it's always been. What about using it in your bedroom for late-night reading?

Small dressers can serve as end tables or sideboards, while end tables can be used as bedside tables. Living room seating can make a guest room cozier, while a small kitchen table can add extra dining space to a family room.

Shop together

Buying a few new pieces can tie together a couple's shared decor and help both partners feel at home. "Maybe they go shopping," Burnham says, "and they find some great vintage rugs that neither one of them knew they loved."

This includes accessories and artwork: Canada suggests buying one powerful piece of art to be a focal point in your newly shared space.

And if they really can't reach agreement, Canada says, "There's no shame in selling your furniture and going out together and buying new pieces as a couple."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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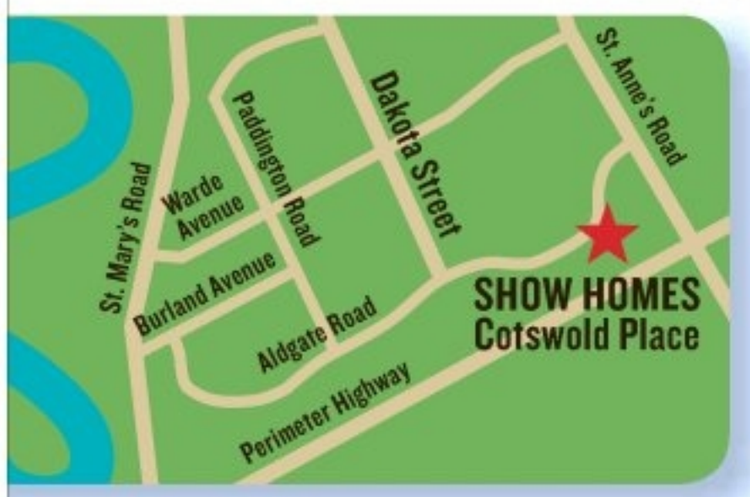

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'Amazing to be wanted'

CFL DRAFT

Bombers pick has appetite for success in Winnipeg

Trent Corney reaches during a shuttle run at NFL pro day on March 15 in Charlottesville, Va. ANDREW SHURTLEFF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trent Corney's football future is finally settled.

The Virginia defensive end was taken ninth overall by the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to open the second round of Tuesday's CFL draft. After months of seemingly endless testing, running drills and one-on-one interviews with scouts and GMs, the Brockville, Ont., native now knows where he'll begin his pro football career.

"I'm super excited to be in Winnipeg," he said during a conference call Wednesday. "It just feels amazing to be wanted and thought of so highly.

"It was a great moment for me."

Corney sometimes marches to the beat of his own drummer so it's no surprise he learned of the Bombers' move rather unconventionally.

"Don't make fun of me," he said. "I was in my basement, I had the TV connected to the wall in my weightroom and I was doing squats with my buddies.

"I was watching the draft expecting to go in the first round ... I was thinking possibly the Argos (at No. 4) or Redblacks (at No. 7)."

But Corney, 22, has become a master lately of dealing with dashed hopes. He says nine NFL teams spoke to him prior to last month's draft saying if he wasn't selected they were interested in signing him as a priority free agent.

However, after Corney was bypassed in the draft, no contract offers came. He attended the New York Jets' two-day mini-camp as an unsigned free agent but left without an NFL deal in hand.

"The whole NFL deal was very stressful because a lot of teams showed interest in me but none of them were pulling the trigger," Corney said. "They all kind of just said that and never did anything.

"It really motivates me to have (the Bombers) want me and I'm going to give them everything I've got because they trust me and I trust them."

Corney was frustrated with the Jets' camp as he felt he excelled playing outside linebacker with the NFL club.

"It actually wasn't a challenge at all, I feel I picked it up fast," he said. "If I had played that position in college, I would've been more productive.

"To be honest with you, I thought I had a real dominant weekend. The situation was they weren't really looking to sign a linebacker so I was kind of put in a position where there was no way I was going to make the squad ... it was a tough situation."

After playing sparingly his first three years at Virginia — registering 15 tackles and two sacks — Corney started 11 of 12 games last season, accumulating 36 tackles, nine tackles for a loss and two sacks.

But he also emerged as a social media star, taking to Youtube and Instagram to highlight his freakish athleticism. Videos show the burly lineman landing front flips in a sand pit, jumping out of a pool on to a deck and dunking a basketball from one.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

I like doing epic cheat meals ... Getting drafted ... I feel it's worthy of having that cheat meal.

When he feels he's deserving, Trent Corney has a rather unique way of rewarding himself. In January after the sociology major's graduation, he celebrated by eating five double-bacon cheeseburgers, complete with fries.

IN BRIEF

Bouchard upsets second seed, Raonic bows out

Eugenie Bouchard reached the third round of the Italian Open with an upset of second seed Angelique Kerber on Wednesday, while fellow Canadian Milos Raonic was ousted by recent nemesis Nick Kyrgios.

Bouchard, once ranked as high as fourth in the world before a disastrous 2015 season derailed her rise to stardom, defeated Kerber 6-1, 5-7, 7-5.

Raonic, meanwhile, fell 7-6 (5), 6-3 to Kyrgios, who has won three straight matches against the Canadian. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ovi joins Team Russia

The Russian Hockey Federation says it is calling up forward Alex Ovechkin and Washington Capitals teammates Evgeny Kuznetsov and Dmitry Orlov for the world championships.

The Capitals lost in six games to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the second round of the NHL playoffs on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sunderland victory ousts Newcastle and Norwich

Sunderland completed its latest escape from relegation in the English Premier League on Wednesday and consigned bitter northeast rival Newcastle to the second tier in the process.

A 3-0 win over Everton guaranteed safety for Sunderland with a game to spare this season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spring brings with it big events on Manitoba sports calendar

VIEW FROM THE 300S

Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson

It's all happening! There is so much going on right now on the international and local sports scene it's hard keeping track of everything.

The playoff action in the NHL and NBA is just a start. Here are the top sports stories from right here in Manitoba.

The Brandon Wheat Kings got off to a great start in the WHL final, beating Seattle twice in overtime last weekend to take a 2-0 series lead before heading West for Games 3 to 5. In Tuesday night's Game 3, the Wheaties prevailed 3-2 in OT, taking a 3-0 stranglehold to move a win away from the championship and a trip to Red Deer, Alta., for the Memorial Cup later this month.

Some congratulations are in order for the Portage Terriers. After back-to-back 50-plus-win seasons and Turnbull Cup victories, the MJHL champs came up just short at the Western Canada Cup in their quest to defend the RBC Cup, Canada's junior A championship. The Terriers lost 2-1 Sunday to Brooks, Alta., in a play-in game for a spot in the RBC Cup. Another incredible year for coach Blake Spiller and the powerhouse from Portage la Prairie.

Meanwhile at IGF, Bombers camp has yet to begin but Kyle Walters and his staff have been busy. Winnipeg held the ninth and 10th picks in Tuesday's CFL draft and selected Virginia DL Trent Corney and Simon Fraser OL Michael Couture. Both should compete for playing time as rookies.

The draft was also a big day for Brian Dobie's U of M Bisons which saw four players selected. OL Alex Mckay (Riders), SB Alex Vitt (Bombers), LB D.J. Lalama (Edmonton) were all drafted along with top prospect DL David Onyemata (Riders) who is headed to New Orleans of the NFL as a fourth-rounder.

At Shaw Park, Winnipeg Goldeyes spring training opened on the weekend with the annual open house kick-off. Andrew Collier and Rick Forney have restocked for 2016 and hope to challenge for another American Association title. The Fish home opener goes May 30 after a season-opening road trip.

Another sure sign of spring is the return of horse racing at Assiniboia Downs. A busy Kentucky Derby weekend kicked off the live racing season with a special Sunday night opener. The horses will go back to the post this Friday and Saturday evening and throughout the summer, a full live schedule is available at asdowns.com.

Thankfully spring is here and with it, one of the best periods of the sporting calendar.

RECIPE Flatbread Pizza

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is one of those dishes that doesn't really require a recipe. A flatbread pizza is an easy end of day meal win because it uses leftovers and comes together easy.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

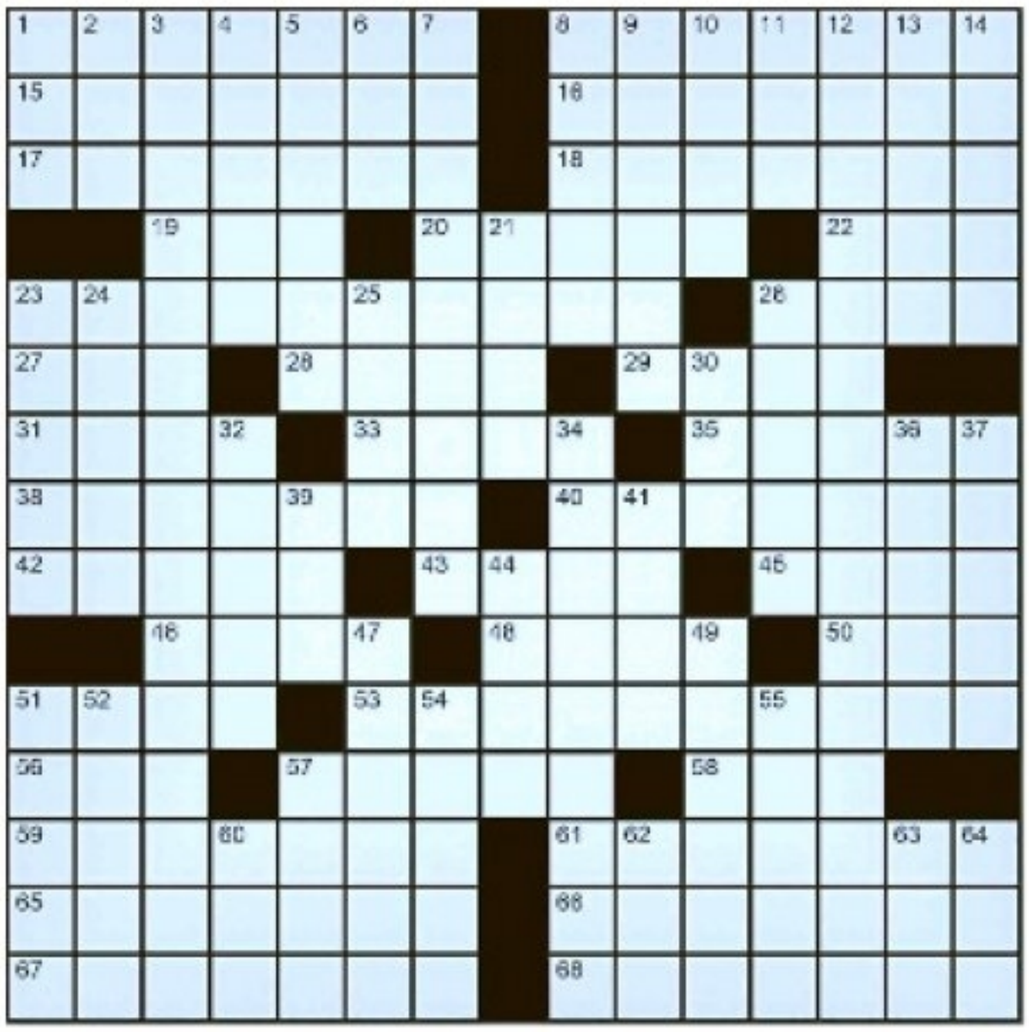
Ingredients
- 1 large flatbread
- 1/3 cup pasatta (lightly seasoned, pureed tomatoes)
- 6 mushrooms, sliced thinly
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup ricotta
- 1/2 tsp lemon zest
- 1/3 zucchini, sliced with a vegetable peeler into ribbons
- 1/2 cup Parmesan, grated
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 400. Arrange all your ingredients on your flatbread and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until crust is golden brown and vegetables are fork tender.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Belonging to Massachusetts' capital city
8. Shoppers Drug Mart: __ Card
15. Undetected, like some fighter aircraft
16. Wealth
17. To the point
18. __ Pops (Candy-filled treats on a stick)
19. Six and Eight separator, wee-ly
20. Harped on
22. Incurred
23. Canadian magazine since 1928
26. Coastal birds
27. Former military General's abbr.
28. Some rodents
29. Jean Arp's art
31. Dismounted
33. Livelinesses
35. Posh sofa
38. Miami's locale
40. Sugar pill, in clinical trials
42. Gin and __
43. Function
45. Larger __ life
46. __ acetate (Banana oil)
48. Challenger
50. Devoured
51. Mr. Mineo's
53. No need for the whispers, it's a known thing: 2 wds.
56. Will Smith movie
57. __ 99 (Maxwell Smart's colleague)
58. Male swan
59. Cough drop
61. Cut from the Coast: 2 wds.
63. Alliance
64. Gets introduced to
21. Bit of bangs
23. Artsy creation
24. Adele tune
25. Force in California's largest city [acronym]
26. Decree
30. Inman's love in "Cold Mountain" (2003)
32. Crops
34. Wood worker's woes
36. Taper off
37. Three trios
39. Glacial
41. Spike and Bruce
44. Stove
47. Lumberjack
49. Food formula
51. Beauty parlour
52. Flying solo
54. Baby bird sounds
55. Terra __ flower pots
57. 'A' of AM
60. Founded, for short
62. "See Saw Margery __" (18th-century nursery rhyme)
63. Mr. Geller
64. Downing's political address number in Britain
65. '__ __ Beyond...': 1979 album for British ska band Madness
66. 1981 Blondie hit
67. Empty __ (Couples with unused-extra-bedrooms)
68. Administer an oath of office: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Particular letters for a grad
2. Prefix to 'logist' (Ear doctor)
3. Tells a tabloid type of tale
4. Be silent, in music
5. !-ending musical
6. Days opp.
7. Cry: 3 wds.
8. Frequently
9. Combined, as resources
10. Horse gait
11. Cousin __
12. Newfoundland town on the Kittiwake

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You might see new uses for something that you own today because you're in a resourceful frame of mind. You might act on an old idea you had for making money.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Take a realistic look in the mirror today to see how you can improve your appearance. What you see might be something you have been thinking about doing for a while.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day for research, because you will apply yourself diligently to whatever it is you are looking for. Yes, you'll be like a dog with a bone.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You might attract someone very powerful to you today. This person might say something that actually causes you to modify your goals for the future.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Conversations with bosses, parents and VIPs will be memorable today. Quite likely, they will ask you about old business. Perhaps they want you to account for something.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you discuss politics, religion or racial issues today, you will get serious. Likewise, this is a good day to study thoughtful subjects.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might see a new way to tackle problems about inheritances or shared property. Old disputes might be solved now because of a new way of thinking.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Discussions with others are powerful today. This might be because you are coming on strong or because others are coming on strong. Whatever happens, listen carefully.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Look for ways to introduce improvements and reforms at work, because you will see them today. Likewise, you might see ways to improve your own health.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might have a romantic obsession today. Be careful, because this kind of fantasy can overtake your sense of perspective and reality. Try to see things as they really are.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your ideas about how to make improvements at home probably are solid. Talk to a family member to get agreement with someone. Then it will be all systems go.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You have penetrating insights into whatever you think about or talk about today, because your mind is like a laser. You see the reasons behind things, the subtext.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		9			6		4	
			5				7	1
8		7		1	3			
	7				2	9		6
		3				4		
6		4	1				5	
			2	6		3		9
9	2				7			
	1		9			5		

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games

4	7	5	6	9	2	8	1	3
3	2	1	5	8	4	7	9	6
8	9	6	3	7	1	5	4	2
6	4	2	9	5	8	1	3	7
1	5	8	2	3	7	9	6	4
7	3	9	1	4	6	2	5	8
5	8	7	4	6	9	3	2	1
9	1	4	7	2	3	6	8	5
2	6	3	8	1	5	4	7	9

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Of all the beverage containers that weren't recycled, how many were yours?

Last year, Manitobans recycled more beverage containers than ever before. Unfortunately, tons of them still ended up in the landfill, not a blue bin. Even a few containers pile up fast, so recycle your empty cans, bottles, cartons, and juice boxes every time.

RECYCLE EVERY WHERE .CA